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SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				
			EXAMINER	
			RUTKOWSKI, JEFFREY M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2473	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/08/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/751,340	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LOVY ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> JEFFREY M. RUTKOWSKI	<b>Art Unit</b> 2473

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2010.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

**Claims 73-112** have been cancelled.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
  1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
  4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
3. **Claims 1-8, 11-26, 29-44, 47-62 and 65-72** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horbal et al. (US Pat 6,112,246), hereinafter referred to as Horbal, in view of Traversat et al. (US PG Pub 2002/0143855), hereinafter referred to as Traversat.
4. For claims 1, 19, 37 and 55, Horbal discloses *a common interface* (micro-server; see figure 2) *to operate in the communications device* (the micro-server includes a discovery server that is used to discover newly connected network devices; see col. 12 lines 43-55 and figure 12) and *the dissimilar communication devices* (figure 2 shows the micro-server is implemented in dissimilar devices) *to allow communications therebetween in accordance with aspects of the communications device and an abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices* (the

micro server is used to abstract communication protocol aspects of the devices; see col. 2 lines 20-30) and the communications device (device that is using the micro-server's discovery functionality; see col. 12 lines 43-55 and figure 12) further to share data with other dissimilar devices without requiring a proxy device to enable communications (figure 2 shows the devices on the Ethernet are able to communicate without the use of a proxy). Horbal suggests the dissimilar communication devices (the dissimilar devices from figure 2) having dissimilar communication standards (each dissimilar device of figure 2 could use either a standard application-to-application protocol or a different OEM based application-to-application protocol; see col. 9 line 60 to col. 10 line 20 and figure 6. Horbal suggests the standard used for each OEM based application-to-application protocol would be dissimilar because each OEM supplied applet 518 uses a specialized server embedded in the OEM application; see col. 10 lines 40-45. Also, figure 6 suggests the OEM provided applet 514 is dissimilar because each OEM provided applet 514 is special to each OEM provider).

5. Horbal discloses a communications device having at least a discovery protocol layer (device that is using the micro-server's discovery functionality; see col. 12 lines 43-55 and figure 12). Horbal discloses an auto-discovery mechanism where the network is scanned for new devices (see col. 14 lines 30-40) within a particular subnet (see col. 16 lines 63-67). Horbal does not disclose the use of discovery requests. Traversat discloses initiating a discovery request over the network (discovery messages are propagated over a network; see paragraph 0286), the communications device further to receive one or more responses from dissimilar communications devices over the network (the node that propagates the message receives responses from nodes that have receives the discovery message; see paragraph 0286. Figure 1B

shows that devices on the network are dissimilar) *to at least partially determine a network topography* (the purpose of sending the discovery message is to determine the nodes that are in the subnet; see paragraph 0286). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use discovery request messages in Horbal's invention to provide the essential discovery infrastructure for building high-level discovery services (Traversat, paragraph 0261).

6. Specifically for **claim 55**, Horbal discloses *a network* (figure 2 shows an Ethernet network).

7. For **claims 2, 20, 38 and 56**, Horbal discloses the use of *a LAN* (Ethernet of figure 2). Horbal does not disclose the use of discovery requests. Traversat discloses *the initiating of the discovery request* (discovery messages are propagated over a network; see paragraph 0286). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use discovery request messages in Horbal's invention to provide the essential discovery infrastructure for building high-level discovery services (Traversat, paragraph 0261).

8. The combination of Horbal and Traversat discloses *the initiating of the discovery request is performed over a local area network (LAN)* (according to the combination, the propagated discovery messages are sent over the Ethernet).

9. For **claims 3, 21, 39 and 57**, Horbal discloses *prior to said transmitting data, establishing a network connection between said dissimilar communication devices* (the auto-discovery mechanism discovers devices that are connected to the network; see col. 14 lines 30-35).

10. For **claims 4, 22, 40 and 58**, Horbal discloses *said common interface* (micro-server) *comprises a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers* (figure 4 shows the micro-server functionality is hierarchical; see col. 8 lines 20-25).
11. For **claims 5, 23, 41 and 59**, Horbal discloses *at least one of said multiple layers comprises a protocol layer* (item 426 of figure 4), *said protocol layer including at least two protocols* (figure 4 shows item 426 includes the TCP and the IP protocols).
12. For **claims 6, 24, 42 and 60**, Horbal discloses *said at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol* (TCP/IP is used to request information from the nodes on the network; see col. 14 lines 47-53).
13. Horbal does not disclose the use of a discovery protocol. Traversat discloses *a discovery protocol* (core discovery protocol; see paragraph 0286). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a discovery protocol in Horbal's invention to provide the essential discovery infrastructure for building high-level discovery services (Traversat, paragraph 0261).
14. Specifically for **claims 6 and 24**, Horbal does not disclose the use of a discovery protocol. Traversat discloses *the discovery protocol being used to initiate the discovery request* (the core discovery protocol is used to propagate discovery request messages; see paragraph 0286). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a discovery protocol in Horbal's invention to provide the essential discovery infrastructure for building high-level discovery services (Traversat, paragraph 0261).
15. For **claims 7, 25, 43 and 61**, Horbal suggests *at least one of the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including the aspects of the dissimilar communication devices*

*that have been abstracted* (an API is used to abstract the micro-server to the OEM layer; see col. 5 lines 55-58 and col. 6 line 48).

16. For **claims 8, 26, 44 and 62**, Horbal discloses *said data is transmitted between said dissimilar devices through a layer of said layered functional hierarchy* (figure 4 of Horbal shows data is transmitted through a protocol stack and API layer).

17. For **claims 11, 29, 47 and 65**, Horbal discloses consumer devices can communicate via web browser (see col. 4 lines 35-40 and figure 6). Horbal does not disclose the use of file sharing. Traversat discloses *wherein said data comprises at least one file* (peer-to-peer systems are use for file sharing; see paragraph 0015). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention use file sharing in Horbal's invention to increase the utilization of information (Traversat, paragraph 0013).

18. For **claims 12, 30, 48, and 66**, Horbal does not disclose the use of file sharing. Traversat discloses *said at least one file comprises a digital media file* (music files are shared; see paragraph 0015). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention use file sharing in Horbal's invention to increase the utilization of information via Napster (Traversat, paragraphs 0013, 0015).

19. For **claims 13, 31, 49 and 67**, Horbal does not disclose the use of file sharing. Traversat discloses *said digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file* (music files are shared; see paragraph 0015). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention use file sharing in Horbal's invention to increase the utilization of information via Napster (Traversat, paragraphs 0013, 0015).

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20. For claims 14, 32, 50 and 68, Horbal discloses *said dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices* (client PC's; see figure 2), *wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols* (figure 6 shows differing protocols can be used to communicate with the micro-server), *remote control devices* (thermostat; see col. 3 lines 25-50). Horbal suggests *digital audio devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices* (Horbal's invention can be implemented in consumer products; see col. 4 lines 34-36).

21. For claims 15, 33, 51 and 69, Horbal discloses *said aspects of said dissimilar communications devices that have been abstracted include: controlling* (the thermostat is controlled via micro-server; see col. 3 lines 25-50), *executing* (the OEM API abstracts how functions are executed; see col. 7 lines 10-15), *recording* (the view server that is built into the micro-server abstracts how information is recorded; see figure 12), *storing* (the OEM API abstracts how device information is stored; see col. 7 lines 1-10), *discovering* (the micro-server includes a discovery mechanism; see col. 12 lines 43-55 and figure 12), and *messaging* (the OEM API abstracts the messaging; see col. 6 lines 44-54).

22. For claims 16, 34, 52 and 70, Horbal discloses *wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to control another of said dissimilar communications devices* (figure 8 shows a control page of the micro-server).

23. For claims 17, 35, 53 and 71, Horbal discloses *wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data* (the auto-discovery mechanism of the micro-server accesses information for

display in an HTML index page; see col. 17 lines 4-6), *execute digital data, and transfer digital data.*

24. For **claims 18, 36, 54 and 72**, Horbal discloses *wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes the capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data* (figure 12 shows the micro-server can organize data into a table format for presentation to a user).

25. **Claims 9-10, 27-28, 45-46 and 63-64** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horbal in view of Traversat, as applied to **claims 4, 22, 40 and 58 respectively** above, and further in view of Wilkinson et al. (US Pg Pub 2002/0099867), hereinafter known as Wilkinson.

26. For **claims 9, 27, 45 and 63**, Horbal's invention supports the use of standard operating systems (see col. 5 lines 18-30). The combination of Horbal and Traversat does not disclose the use of an operating system layer. Wilkinson discloses *wherein at least one of said layers comprises an operating system layer* (the OS layer 6 is used in a software architecture; see figure 1 and 0043-0044). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an OS abstraction layer in Horbal's invention to facilitate an OS independent environment.

27. For **claims 10, 28, 46 and 64**, the combination of Horbal and Traversat does not disclose the use of an operating system layer. Wilkinson discloses *said operating system layer includes the capability to access components of said dissimilar devices* (included in the OS layer is an abstraction layer 14 allowing for the use of third party components such as device drivers 18; see paragraph 0049). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to use a device driver in Horbal's invention since device drivers allow an Operating System (OS) to communicate with the network.

***Response to Arguments***

28. The arguments with respect to Horbal teaching away from the claimed invention because once the micro-server is embedded, the devices are no longer dissimilar because all devices use the same protocol are not persuasive. Horbal's invention allows for devices to use the same application-to-application protocol via the default applet 512 (see col. 9 lines 60-67) or different application-to-application protocols via the OEM provided applet 514 (see col. 10 lines 5-20). Figure 6 suggests the OEM provided applet 514 is not standard because each OEM provided applet 514 is special to each OEM provider.

29. Applicant's arguments filed 04/05/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, for the reasons stated above.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY M. RUTKOWSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-1215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on (571) 272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey M Rutkowski/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2473

/KWANG B. YAO/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2473